

Anti-Slavery Office,

23 Nov., 1854.

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Dear Garrison:

I thank you for your prompt consent to lecture on the 5th of Dec., and now I write to ask you, conditionally, if you will not hold yourself in readiness to come next week, Nov. 28th, and fill the place which Sumner, on account of illness, has been compelled to resign. He tells me that he has disappointed Boston also. It is ~~a~~ bad news, and we, as you may well

Suppose, are in a state of anxiety
and trepidation as to the effect
upon our course. What can
we do? We have strong hope
that we shall be able to induce
Becher to fill the gap, but
he is out of town, & we can-
not see him before to-morrow
P. M. - perhaps not even then.
But we shall do our best to get him,
~~but~~ if we fail, I know not to
whom we can turn but to you.
We must advertise somebody on
Saturday morning, if possible.
(We shall publish Sumner's letter
to satisfy the public.) Now let
me beg you to send me a tel-

graphie message as soon as this reaches you, telling me that you will come if ~~there is~~ Beecher fails us. The simple word yes will be enough. But don't let it be that other monosyllable, no; for ^{if} it should be that, I fear I should hardly survive the shock.

Giddings, in a telegraphic dispatch, just received, says he will lecture Dec. 5th.

In great haste,

Yours, truly,

O. Johnson.

You must consider that if you consent to lecture, the fact will be fully notified before hand, so that there will be no sudden disappointment. You will speak to an audience assembled to hear you.

I will telegraph to you on
Saturday, if we want you.